

STUTTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Never entered a Flower Show?

Most people who enter the Stutton Flower Show are amateurs. Most of us just have a go and find we enjoy taking part.

Don't be put off by thinking this is only an event for horticulturalists or members of a society or about growing the longest carrot, our Show is for everyone. We have divisions for cookery, homemade wine & spirits and a handicraft section so no need at all to enter any flower or vegetable classes if that is not your thing. And there are categories for the children too.

Originally these kinds of shows were started, to give the professional gardeners of the big houses a chance to compete against each other. Soon others wanted to join in and it became more of an event for everybody. A chance to meet up, have a good day out and show off your produce...

Participating in the Show starts with the Schedule where you find the different divisions and classes. Like in a Dog Show there is no point putting your Poodle into a Labrador class...

The schedule is a booklet listing the show rules, the trophies to be won, a few show tips, the 12 categories that you can compete in, the so-called divisions, and the last page of the booklet is the entry form, which you cut off and hand in (but keep the rest of the schedule because you will be needing it!). Each division is broken down into classes. There are 147 classes in total.

First have a good read and browse through the schedule and see what takes your fancy then look to see if you are eligible to enter into that division. The three restrictions might be; your age, whether you live in Stutton or not and if you employ a kitchen gardener.

For the children of Stutton and beyond there are three divisions they can enter depending on their age. There are eight divisions open to all exhibitors, age and place of residence of no account.

And then there is the one exception and that is - Division 3 Vegetables - which is for **Stutton resident and growers of produce in Stutton, growing their own exhibits only.** (Thereby excluding the Stutton residents who employ a Kitchen Gardener. They have to enter into Division 2, also Vegetables. This rule harks back to olden times when the show became not only for the Grand Houses but, like today, a chance for all inhabitants to exhibit.) Note that Division 4 and 9 have their own additional rules.

If you like Stutton Flower Show is a "proper" show; the schedule is in line with the long-established traditions of the Royal Horticultural Society whose rules our Fruit, Vegetable and Flower Judges abide by.

You are quite likely to know someone who at some point has entered a show but otherwise you can always ask one of our many committee members listed on the front of the schedule to help.

In the schedule, you will find a few very useful suggestions for showing. In the Stutton Community Shop there are more "Show tips" which we bundled together for you to look at. These have been enhanced with photographs to give you an idea of what the exhibits might look like. For example photographs of *decorative* and *cacti* dahlias, *floribunda* and *hybrid tea* roses and what is meant by "*Shallots – 8 exhibition*"...

So, if you think you might want to have a try and don't quite know how it works we have put together a time line to guide you through the different stages.

Have a go!

With 147 classes, there is bound to be something you can enter.

The Stutton Flower Show is held on every third Saturday in July.

TIME LINE

Beginning of March.

The Flower Show Schedule is out!

Pick up a free Show Schedule from the Community Shop, King's Head, Looking Good and the Schedule can be found on the Stutton Village web site.

Time to start growing vegetables, making jams and reserving wines and spirits. Time for handicraft and tending to the flowers you might like to enter the show according to the schedule.

Two weeks before Show date.

Entry box is out!

On the entry form, which you find at the back of your schedule, circle the class numbers you want to put an entry into and fill in your name and address. **One person per entry form and only one exhibit per class.** (If more people within one family/household want to exhibit please use the entry form of a children's schedule or make a copy or find a form on the Stutton Village web site.) Put this form with your entry money, if any (children's entries are free) into the entry box outside the address advertised on your form.

Entry Fees: Div.1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9: 10p per exhibit. Div. 4: 50p. Div. 10, 11, 12: free.

One week before Show date.

Put up your Scarecrow!

Wednesday before the Show.

Entry form to be handed in by 8 pm!

The Committee needs time to process and administer all the forms. This means that we cannot accept any entries brought in on the day of the show.

Every class you have circled will get a printed card with the class number, the class description and your name on it. These cards will be handed to you when you come to the Community Hall on Saturday morning to stage your exhibits.

SATURDAY SHOW DAY!

8.00 – 10.00 am Community Hall open to stage entries.

You will be handed your entry cards. Every exhibit that you have marked on your entry form has his own card and class. The tables in the hall have been divided into 147 sections and given a number corresponding with the class number on your card. Stage your item by putting your show card, face down on the table (so the Judge does not know who the exhibit belongs to), placing your entry on top. The Committee and Stewards will be on hand and happy to help! (Because mistakes are made we aim to put things right *before* judging commences so leave enough time to stage your exhibits.)

10.00 am Hall is cleared of participants and Judging will commence.

(Hall opens at 2.00 pm for wheelchair users and for special requests if required)

2.30 pm Gates open to Flower Show Hall and Mini Fête.

Now is the time to see how you have done.

There are Best in Division awards, rosettes, cups and for those that have been awarded with a 1st, 2nd, 3rd or Highly Commended in their class, there is prize money to be won.

For clarification on the scoring and prize money see rules 11 and 12 in the beginning of the schedule.

Around 3.45 pm you can pick up your prize money from the Treasurer, left of stage, but please leave your entries on display until after the presentation of cups.

4.15 pm Raffle draw followed by Presentation of cups